

Docket No.: 4456-0108PUS1  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

---

In re Patent Application of:  
Mariko ESUMI et al.

Application No.: NEW

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: February 17, 2006

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA-  
ASSOCIATED GENE

---

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.